

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application, Claims 1-8 and 16-23 having been amended. Support for the amendments to Claims 1-8 and 16-23 is found, for example, at page 12, line 23 to page 13, line 5, page 27, lines 2-14, and Figs. 4 and 7-14. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 16, 18, 20, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention; and Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Force et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0130945, hereinafter Force) in view of Ng (U.S. Patent No. 4,627,019); Claims 3, 4, 7-10, and 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Force in view of Ng, and further in view of Benson et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 20003/0200212, hereinafter Benson); and Claims 16-23 were rejected under the same rationale as Claims 1-8.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 16, 18, 20, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicants respectfully submit that this ground of rejection is not clear. Applicants do understand why only Claims 16, 18, 20, and 22 are being rejected, while the other independent claims are not being rejected.

Applicants request that the Office explain why the claims must state when the session management step starts. The Office does not appear to be requiring that the claims identify when the transaction management steps starts. Again, Applicants refer the Office to MPEP §2173.04, which states “Breadth of a claim is not to be equated with indefiniteness.”

It appears that the point trying to be conveyed by this ground of rejection is that the phrase “wherein the session management step starts management of the session processing

steps when...a request other than a management start request” is unclear because it could encompass a management stop request. The independent claims are amended to more clearly describe and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Accordingly, this ground for rejection is believed to have been overcome. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 1 as unpatentable over Force in view of Ng, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to Claim 1 overcomes this ground of rejection. Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “a session management unit configured to manage a series of session processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is maintained by extending a time-out period, which indicates how long the incidental information is stored, by an amount based on the function that needs exclusive access control.” Force and Ng, taken alone or in proper combination, do not disclose or suggest this element of amended Claim 1.

The outstanding Office Action equates the session management engine of Force to the claimed “session management unit.” Force describes that the session management engine receives client instructions to perform various predetermined transaction management operations.¹ However, Force does not disclose or suggest that one of the predetermined transaction management operations is maintaining a session with the client by extending a time-out period, which indicates how long the incidental information is stored, by an amount based on the function that needs exclusive access control.

Furthermore, Ng does not cure this deficiency in Force. Ng does not disclose or suggest the claimed “a session management unit configured to manage a series of session processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is

¹ Force, paragraph [0120].

maintained by extending a time-out period, which indicates how long the incidental information is stored, by an amount based on the function that needs exclusive access control.”

Furthermore, Benson does not cure the above-noted deficiency in Force. Benson describes a database management system that uses tracking tables for both a library server and an object server in an asynchronous process which uses the tracking table information to compare activity on both servers.² Benson also describes a resource manager tracking table, which includes a timestamp.³ The timestamp of the resource manager tracking table is used to determine if a failure has occurred.⁴ The timestamp of Benson does not equate to the claimed time-out period. While Fig. 2 of Benson shows “expiretime timestamp,” the specification of Benson does not describe what this means.

Furthermore, an explicit End Transaction() call does not equate to a time-out period.⁵

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Benson does not disclose or suggest the claimed “a session management unit configured to manage a series of session processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is maintained by extending a time-out period, which indicates how long the incidental information is stored, by an amount based on the function that needs exclusive access control.”

Since neither Force, Ng, nor Benson disclose or suggest the claimed “a session management unit configured to manage a series of session processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is maintained by extending a time-out period, which indicates how long the incidental information is stored, by an amount based on the function that needs exclusive access control,” Applicants respectfully submit that a person

² Benson, paragraph [0018].

³ Benson, paragraph [0036].

⁴ Benson, paragraph [0026].

⁵ Benson, paragraph [0021].

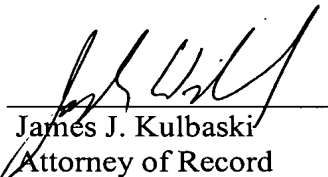
of ordinary skill in the art could not properly combine the descriptions in Force, Ng, and Benson to arrive at the claimed invention.

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Force, Ng, and Benson, taken alone or in proper combination. Claims 2-8 and 16-23 recite elements analogous to those of Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-8 and 16-23 (and any claims dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Force, Ng, and Benson, taken alone or in proper combination, for at least the reasons stated for Claim 1.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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